

**Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for separating water from a ~~water/oil emulsion~~ mixture of oil and water comprising:

a column containing granules comprised of a bed of super absorbent polymeric material, said column further comprising a mixture of oil and water, and said column having an inlet and an outlet for passing said ~~emulsion~~ mixture of oil and water through said bed of super absorbent polymeric material.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said inlet is located below said outlet so that said ~~emulsion~~ mixture of oil and water flowing through said column flows upwardly through said column.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 comprising a plurality of columns connected in parallel between a source of said ~~emulsion~~ mixture of oil and water and a retained oil outlet.

11. (Originally Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said apparatus includes an auger positioned in the interior of said column.

12. (Originally Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said bed of granules is a fluidized bed.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 additionally including ~~[[an]]~~ a granule removal outlet for removing granules from said column and ~~[[an]]~~ a granule addition inlet for adding granules to said column.